

IN THE SENATE

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 101

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

TO THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE STATE OF IDAHO IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

We, your Memorialists, the Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of Idaho assembled in the First Regular Session of the Sixty-fourth Idaho Legislature, do hereby respectfully represent that:

WHEREAS, there is a pending proposal, requiring congressional approval, to designate Craters of the Moon National Monument as a national park. The area commonly known as "Craters of the Moon" is comprised of three distinct areas. The national park proposal applies only to the original Craters of the Moon National Monument that comprises 54,000 acres. The additional 646,000 acres will remain the same; and

WHEREAS, President Calvin Coolidge designated the Craters of the Moon National Monument in 1924 with the intent of eventually designating it as a national park, yet Idaho remains the only western state without a national park; and

WHEREAS, in 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt excluded a portion of land from the Craters of the Moon National Monument and transferred it to Idaho for purposes of constructing a highway that became U.S. 20/26 that runs through the proposed national park. Designation as a national park would not affect use of U.S. 20/26 in any way or cause restrictions on any type of shipment, including agricultural shipments; and

WHEREAS, the State of Idaho supports a national park designation, provided such designation: (a) is restricted to Craters of the Moon National Monument that comprises 54,000 acres; (b) is conditioned upon the guarantee that no future national monument or monuments shall be designated within the boundaries of the additional 646,000 acres, or in any county adjacent to the national park, if so designated, or in any county adjacent to the additional 646,000 acres; and (c) is conditioned on there being no imposition of federal requirements or restrictions relating to the use of tarps during shipments on U.S. 20/26; and

WHEREAS, the State of Idaho further expresses its support for a national park designation, provided such designation: (a) is conditioned on the federal government: (i) placing 400 feet of land centered along U.S. 20/26 that runs through any portion of the 646,000 additional acres, not located within the proposed national park boundaries, under the ownership of the State of Idaho, and (ii) transferring ownership of such amount of land to the State of Idaho as is necessary so that the state will own a total of 400 feet of land centered along U.S. 20/26 that runs through the proposed national park boundaries. Such transfers are necessary to ensure continued use of the highway without restrictions on any type of shipment, such as agricultural shipments, which include, but are not limited to, shipments of alfalfa, hay,

1 straw, fuel and commercial commodities; and (b) is further conditioned on
2 the recognition and continuation of existing multiple uses and management
3 practices in and around the park including, but not limited to, public ac-
4 cess, grazing, hunting, trapping, camping and motorized vehicle use, as well
5 as authorized aerial hunting by APHIS/USDA for protection of livestock and
6 wildlife, with no federal restrictions on any of these practices; and

7 WHEREAS, national park designation has broad local support, including
8 the regional business community and a coalition of city and county govern-
9 ments, including Blaine, Butte, Lincoln, Power, Bingham, Minidoka, Camas
10 and Bonneville county commissioners and the city councils of Arco, Mackay
11 and Carey, all having voted to support a national park designation; and

12 WHEREAS, Craters of the Moon is the largest young basaltic lava field in
13 the continental United States, has a stunning array of volcanism and serves
14 as an outstanding outdoor classroom that attracts thousands of students ev-
15 ery year. The site also contains the first wilderness lands managed by the
16 National Park Service and therefore has historical significance to the Na-
17 tional Park System; and

18 WHEREAS, redesignating Craters of the Moon National Monument as a na-
19 tional park would greatly increase the number of visitors to Craters of the
20 Moon, thereby greatly enhancing the economic development of Butte County,
21 Blaine County and all surrounding areas.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular
23 Session of the Sixty-fourth Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House
24 of Representatives concurring therein, that the State of Idaho supports
25 congressional approval of the designation of Craters of the Moon National
26 Monument as Craters of the Moon National Park, provided such designation:
27 (a) is restricted to Craters of the Moon National Monument that comprises
28 54,000 acres; (b) is conditioned upon the guarantee that no future national
29 monument or monuments shall be designated within the boundaries of the addi-
30 tional 646,000 acres, or in any county adjacent to the national park, if so
31 designated, or in any county adjacent to the additional 646,000 acres; and
32 (c) is conditioned on there being no imposition of federal requirements or
33 restrictions relating to the use of tarps during shipments on U.S. 20/26.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Idaho further expresses its
35 support for congressional approval of the designation of Craters of the
36 Moon National Monument as Craters of the Moon National Park, provided such
37 designation: (a) is conditioned on the federal government: (i) placing
38 400 feet of land centered along U.S. 20/26 that runs through any portion of
39 the 646,000 additional acres, not located within the proposed national park
40 boundaries, under the ownership of the State of Idaho, and (ii) transferring
41 ownership of such amount of land to the State of Idaho as is necessary so
42 that the state will own a total of 400 feet of land centered along U.S. 20/26
43 that runs through the proposed national park boundaries. Such transfers are
44 necessary to ensure continued use of the highway without restrictions on any
45 type of shipment, such as agricultural shipments, which include, but are not
46 limited to, shipments of alfalfa, hay, straw, fuel and commercial commodi-
47 ties; and (b) is further conditioned on the recognition and continuation
48 of existing multiple uses and management practices in and around the park
49 including, but not limited to, public access, grazing, hunting, trapping,
50 camping and motorized vehicle use, as well as authorized aerial hunting by

1 APHIS/USDA for protection of livestock and wildlife, with no federal re-
2 strictions on any of these practices.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Idaho looks for the designa-
4 tion to enhance the economies of the surrounding communities and the people
5 of Idaho.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate be, and she is
7 hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this Memorial to the
8 President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of
9 Congress, and to the congressional delegation representing the State of
10 Idaho in the Congress of the United States.